

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Worcester. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2004.

Residents of the City of Worcester

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2004, there were 102,226 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 4.7% (4,855) of these admissions reside in the City of Worcester. 1.2% (56) of admissions from the City of Worcester were under 18 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2004, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of Worcester reported the following characteristics:

- 70% were male and 30% were female.
- 63% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 57% were white non-Latino, 10% were black non-Latino, 29% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 62% were never married, 15% were married, and 23 % reported not to be married now.
- 36% had less than high school education, 47% completed high school, and 17% had more than high school education.
- 16% were employed.
- 27% were homeless.
- 25% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Worcester.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2004					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	29%	57%	5%	2%	4%
State	43%	39%	5%	4%	2%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1996 – FY 2004							
City of Worcester							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '96	5,709	3,984	1,589	2,099	1,764	2,843	1,887
FY '97	5,678	4,041	1,632	1,999	1,583	2,767	2,054
FY '98	6,311	4,418	2,118	2,169	1,783	3,281	2,417
FY '99	6,525	4,454	2,002	2,152	1,666	3,409	2,606
FY '00	6,806	4,549	2,090	2,321	1,683	4,046	3,210
FY '01	7,248	4,265	1,832	1,967	1,345	4,400	3,486
FY '02	6,805	3,990	1,736	1,871	1,306	4,020	3,033
FY '03	5,673	2,973	1,370	1,538	1,042	3,505	2,653
FY '04	4,855	2,526	1,160	1,402	1,052	2,943	2,353

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Worcester and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

